

REMARKS

Applicant hereby confirms the election under 35 U.S.C. 121 for the purposes of examination of the claims of Group I (claims 1 and 2) drawn to roof component assemblies. This election is made without traverse. Claims 3 to 14 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The base sheet assembly 40 of the subject invention for use in a self-adhered roof system, includes: a waterproof self-adhering base sheet 22 for forming a watertight roof system layer that is self-adhering to an overlying roof system layer and an underlying roof system layer; a bottom surface release sheet 42 forming a bottom surface of the base sheet assembly 40, and a top surface release sheet 44 forming a top surface of the base sheet assembly 40. The waterproof self-adhering base sheet 22 consists essentially of a reinforcing layer 46 encapsulated within self-adhering bitumen (layers 48 and 52) that forms the bottom major surface 50 and the top major surface 54 of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet 22. The bottom surface release sheet overlies and is substantially coextensive with the bottom major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet to protect the bottom major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet from damage during storage, shipment and handling and is removable from the bottom major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet immediately prior to installation of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet on an underlying layer of a roof system. With the bottom surface release sheet removed from the bottom major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet, the bottom major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet can be self-adhered to form a watertight bond with an underlying roof system layer primarily by the application of pressure. The top surface release sheet overlies and is substantially coextensive with

the top major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet to protect the top major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet from damage during storage, shipment and handling and is removable from the top major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet immediately prior to an application of an overlying roof layer to the top major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet. With the top surface release sheet removed from the top major surface of the waterproof self-adhering base sheet, the top major surface the waterproof self-adhering base sheet can be self-adhered to form a watertight bond with an overlying roof system layer primarily by the application of pressure.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zanchetta et al (US Patent No. 6,696,125).

Zanchetta et al discloses a roof covering composite 2 that has: a reinforcing carrier sheet 4; a top asphaltic layer 1 that is not self-adhering, such as an APP modified bitumen compound layer, on the top side of the carrier sheet 4; and a separate factory-applied self-adhesive compound layer 7 on the bottom side of the carrier sheet 4. A release liner 19 overlies the self-adhesive compound layer 7. "Surfacing agents 10, such as granules, talc, or sand for cap sheets and base sheets, fabric surfacing for metal underlayments or mineral granules for tile underlayments, are applied to the upper surface of the top asphaltic coating layer 1 to impart weathering, high temperature resistant characteristics and skid resistant characteristics." (col. 7, lines 4-10)

As discussed above, the base sheet assembly 40 of the subject invention for use in a self-adhered roof system, includes: a waterproof self-adhering base sheet 22 for forming a watertight roof system layer that has a reinforcing layer 46 encapsulated within self-adhering bitumen that forms bottom and top surfaces 50 and 54 of the base sheet 22 that are self-adhering to an underlying roof system layer and an overlying roof system layer; a bottom surface release sheet 42 forming a bottom surface of the base sheet

assembly 40, and a top surface release sheet 44 forming a top surface of the base sheet assembly 40. While the roof covering composite 2 of Zanchetta et al has a self-adhesive compound layer 7 on the bottom side of the carrier sheet 4 to self-adhere the roofing composite 2 to an underlying roof layer, the Zanchetta et al roof covering composite 2 does not have a self-adhesive compound layer on the top side of the carrier sheet 4 to self-adhere the roofing composite 2 to an overlying roof layer. In fact, Zanchetta et al teaches away from the concept of the subject invention by first using a top asphaltic layer 1 that is not self-adhering and second by applying surfacing agents such as granules, talc or sand to layer 1. For the reasons discussed above, claim 1 patentably defines the base sheet assembly of the subject invention over Zanchetta et al and the allowance of claim 1 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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